

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 787

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor Mike Edwards for his dedicated service on the State Board of Education.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm as public servants in education; and

WHEREAS, representing the Second Congressional District, Mike Edwards is one such individual, who was a valuable asset as a member of the State Board of Education, serving two consecutive terms from 2012 to 2021; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards was first appointed to the State Board of Education by Governor Bill Haslam in 2011 and reappointed in 2016; throughout his nine-year tenure on the Board, he distinguished himself as a knowledgeable voice and stalwart advocate for public education in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a Knoxville native, Mike Edwards grew up in Park City and Bearden and graduated from Bearden High School; in 1970, he received his degree in history from the University of Tennessee, then began working in the Knox County Trustee's Office and with the Boys Club, before it became the Boys & Girls Club; and

WHEREAS, his career then took him to the Public Building Authority of Knox County and the City of Knoxville, where he served as president and chief executive officer for seventeen years before going to work for Turkey Creek Land Partners for a little more than two years; and

WHEREAS, some of Mr. Edwards's most significant contributions came through his leadership with the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce; he came on board as president and chief executive officer in 2002, serving for seventeen years before his retirement in 2019, leading with

integrity and aplomb and championing issues related to public education and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Chamber grew its membership by more than thirty percent to include more members than any other chamber in the State, was named the 2011 Chamber of the Year by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, and was awarded a Five-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, putting it in the top three percent of chambers in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mike Edwards is a founding member of the Board of Trustees of the Great Schools Partnership and has served as a Ford Fellow, focusing on regional education partnerships and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, a trusted leader among his peers, Mr. Edwards served as chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Education Committee and created the "truth in advertising" section of their annual report; it was his work on that committee that helped begin the education reform movement in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mike Edwards has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of his colleagues and a grateful educational community as well; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Mike Edwards for his dedicated service as a member of the State Board of Education, commend his ongoing commitment to public service, and thank him for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.